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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/399,694	09/21/1999	MARK ANTHONY CESARE	ST9-99-037	2556

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/399,694

Applicant(s)

CESARE ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. After carefully reviewing for appeal brief filed on 5/19/03. The finality of the office action 1/17/03 is now withdrawn. The office regrets any inconvenience due to the applicant.

2. The pending claims are 1-46.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-12, 14-25, 27-38, and 40-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell Borland (Microsoft Word 97).

With respect to claims 1, 14, 27, and 40, Borland discloses receiving at least one rule definition (the user defines number of row, column, and column width to be inserted, (pages 297, lines 1-13) wherein each rule definition indicates a find criteria

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(the user input find what value or text, pages 117, lines 17-28), a replacement value (the user input replace with a value or a text, pages 117, lines 17-28), and an input data column in the input table (after the user created a table, the user input the data or value in the table, pages 297, lines 1-13);

Searching, for each rule definition, the input data column for any fields that match the find criteria (the user go to Edit and click Find command in order to find criteria and replace the value, pages 117, lines 17-28);

If the rule definition does not specify an output table (this is a conditional statement if and only if), directly inserting, for each rule definition (the user defines number of row, column, and column width to be inserted, pages 297, lines 1-13), the replacement value in the fields in the input data column that match the find criteria (the user input find what value or text and replace with value or text as the user likes, pages 117, lines 17-28).

Borland does not clearly teach "wherein subsequent applications of additional rule definitions applied to the same input data column operate on replacement values inserted in the input data column in previously applied rule definitions". However, Borland further discloses all the text in boldface italic really should be just italic. The user probably can't remember every word or phrase in boldface italic, so the user needs to replace formatting only. To replace the formatting, follow these steps: 1. Choose the Edit Replace command. 2. Click the More button. 3. Delete any text. 4. Click Format. 5. Select the type of formatting you want to replace. You can select as many different types of formatting as you need. 6. In each formatting dialog box, select the formatting

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you want to find, and click OK, (pages 122, lines 1-16) as step of ***wherein subsequent applications of additional rule definitions applied to the same input data column operate on replacement values inserted in the input data column in previously applied rule definitions.*** Thus, choosing the format is an additional rule definition.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Borland by including wherein subsequent applications of additional rule definitions applied to the same input data column operate on replacement values inserted in the input data column in previously applied rule definitions because it make the job easier.

Re claims 2, 15, and 28, Borland further discloses wherein each rule definition is associated with one rule table including the find criteria and replacement value, wherein a rule table column parameter for each rule definition indicates the columns in the rule table including the find criteria and replacement value for the rule definition, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 3, 16, and 29, Borland further discloses wherein there is a separate rule table including the find criteria and replacement value associated with at least one rule definition, wherein, for each rule definition, a rule table column parameter indicates the columns in the rule table for the rule definition including the find criteria and replacement value for that rule definition, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

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Re claims 4, 17, and 30, Borland further discloses wherein the input data column for a first and second applied rule definitions is the same input data column, wherein the replacement value for the first rule definition is inserted into at least one field in the input data column, and wherein the find criteria of the second rule definition is applied to the replacement value inserted in the input data column, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 5, 18, 31, and 44, Borland further discloses wherein at least one rule definition includes multiple find criteria and a corresponding replacement value for each find criteria, wherein the step of searching the input data column comprises applying each of the multiple find criteria to one field until one of: (i) a match occurs, (pages 117, lines 17-28) and (ii) none of the multiple find criteria are found to match the field content, and wherein inserting the replacement value comprises inserting the replacement value corresponding to one find criteria that matched the field content, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 6, 19, 32, and 45, Borland further discloses wherein a sort column includes values to use to sort the multiple find criteria and corresponding replacement value, wherein the step of searching comprises applying the multiple find criteria to each field in the order specified in the sort column, (pages 322, lines 1-11).

Re claims 7, 20, 33, and 46, Borland further discloses wherein the rule definition comprises a type of rule that is a member of the set of rules consisting of: find and

replace, discretization, and numeric clip, wherein at least two rule definitions are comprised of different rule types, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claim 41, Borland further discloses wherein at least one rule definition further includes: indication of one rule including the find criteria and replacement value for the at least two rule definitions, such that the one rule table includes the find criteria and replacement value for the at least two rule definitions, (pages 117, lines 17-28); and a rule table column parameter for the at least two rule definitions indicating the columns in the rule table including the find criteria and replacement value for the rule definitions, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claim 42, Borland further discloses wherein at least one rule definition further includes: indication of a separate rule table for each rule definition including the find criteria and replacement value for the at least two rule definitions, (pages 117, lines 17-28); and a rule table column parameter indicating the columns in the rule table for the rule definition including the find criteria and replacement value for that rule definition, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claim 43, Borland further discloses wherein the input data column for a first and second applied rule definitions is the same input data column, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 8, 21, and 34, Borland further discloses wherein the find criteria for at least one rule definition comprises an upper bond and lower bound, wherein searching comprises searching for any fields that have values within the upper and lower bound, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 9, 12, 22, 25, 35, and 38, Borland further discloses wherein the at least one rule definition including find criteria having upper and lower bounds includes multiple find criteria and a corresponding replacement value for each find criteria, wherein the step of searching the input data column comprises applying each of the multiple find criteria to one field until one of: (i) a match occurs and (ii) none of the multiple find criteria are found to match the field content, and wherein inserting the replacement value comprises inserting the replacement value corresponding to one find criteria that matched the field content, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 10, 23, and 36, Borland further discloses wherein searching comprises searching for any fields that have values outside of one of the upper and lower bounds, (pages 117, lines 17-28).

Re claims 11, 24, and 37 Borland further discloses wherein the find criteria for at least one rule definition comprises an upper bound and lower bound and wherein the replacement value is an upper replacement value and further comprising a lower

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replacement value, wherein searching comprises searching for any fields that have values with the upper and lower bounds and wherein inserting comprises inserting the upper replacement value if the field has a value greater than the upper bound and inserting the lower replacement value if the field has a value less than the lower bound,(pages 117, lines 17-28).

6. Claims 13, 26, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell Borland (Microsoft Word 97) in view of Dahlen et al. (US 6178421).

Re claims 13, 26, and 39, Borland discloses find what and replace, (pages 117, lines 17-28). However, Borland does not disclose “wherein the rule definitions include a row clean flag, and wherein at least one rule definition has the row clean flag set, further comprising removing any row including a field matching the search criteria from the input table when the row clean flag is set”. Dahlen discloses a determination is made as to whether the CLTE command has timed-out or whether the segment is complete, INQUIRY 616. If the CLTE command has not timed-out and if the segment is not complete, then processing continues with STEP 614. However, should the command time-out or if the segment is complete, INQUIRY 616, then some of the controls associated with the segment are updated, STEP 618 (FIG. 6b). For example, at the end of the time slice, the UID latch for the terminated user is reacquired, and cleanup-active flag 714 for the selected segment is set to zero. Additionally, cleanup

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cursor 718 is set to the lock table entry number of the next lock table entry to be processed, (col. 8, lines 41-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Borland by including wherein the rule definitions include a row clean flag, and wherein at least one rule definition has the row clean flag set, further comprising removing any row including a field matching the search criteria from the input table when the row clean flag is set as taught by Dahlen in order to optimize the cleanup process, (col. 1, lines 7-8).

Contact Information

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

08/08/03


SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER